

Lord and to the men and women who rely on his counsel and wisdom. Pastor King is a shining example of the good that serving Jesus Christ can bring to our friends and families.

I wish Pastor King the best of luck and joy as he embarks on what will hopefully be the next 28 years of service to God and to his church.

## TIME FOR A SECULAR DEMOCRACY IN IRAN

**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 2006, thousands of Iranians from around the world, including the members of the Iranian American Cultural Association of Missouri, gathered in Paris to express their interest in a free Iran and their support for the National Council of Resistance of Iran.

At this gathering, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi gave a speech about the need to bring freedom and democracy to the people of Iran. I would like to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues an excerpt from her inspiring address.

In the name of God, in the name of Iran, in the name of freedom, fellow Iranians, dear friends: With warmest greetings to all of you who represent the freedom, dignity and the resistance of our homeland, Iran. The sound of shackles of the religious dictatorship breaking apart and the song of victory can be heard in your resolve and faith, in the uprisings of our Azeri compatriots, and in the victory of those who persevered after the events of June 17, 2003. I also send my greetings to the distinguished personalities from France and other countries that have honored us by their presence. I thank Madam Edith Cresson, the former Prime Minister of France and the honorable mayors in different cities in the province of Val d'Osie as well as the dignified deputies of various parliaments from around the world.

Dear Friends: We are standing at a very extraordinary juncture of Iran's history: The turning point for a major birth and a magnificent destiny toward which we are being steered. Today, all the paths to ensure the survival of the velayat-e faqih regime have reached a dead end. Neither the deceitful spin game of reform nor the policy of appeasement bore any fruit. Propelling Ahmadinejad to power submerged the regime in its entirety in a mortal crisis. Today, the sun for the future of our nation is on the horizon. The terrorist label (against the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran) has become a source of shame for the appeasers and the June 17 dossier has discredited them further. The waves of victory and freedom rush ahead in the declaration of 5.2 million Iraqis, in the ruling by the Paris Court of Appeals and in the spate of uprisings in Iranian cities. So, with a voice louder than ever, we again say, the only option, the only correct path and the only correct answer to the Iranian problem is the establishment of democracy. We say no to war, no to appeasement, yes to the third option: which is democratic change by the Iranian people and their Resistance. We say that the great nation of Iran itself has the capability and the capacity to change its own destiny to achieve democracy. And it undoubtedly will. Accordingly, I will present the outlines of the Resistance's program for the Iran of tomorrow. This program reflects the Iranian people's historic aspirations.

1. In the future Iran the natural and inalienable human rights of every Iranian must be respected. The rights to life, freedom, and security of every citizen of the Iranian nation will be considered equal under the law regardless of their gender, race, religion, ethnic makeup, and dialect. We are committed to the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

2. In the future Iran all individual freedoms will be recognized. These include freedom of speech, clothing, marriage and divorce, employment, travel, choosing one's residency and citizenship.

3. The litmus test of the legitimacy of the country's political and legal makeup is the universal suffrage. In the future Iran the right to make key political decisions in society and the people's right to change the government will be respected and various councils will be set up in all spheres of society in order to uphold and guarantee democracy.

4. We seek a pluralistic republic, in which complete freedom of parties, associations and unions are guaranteed.

5. In the free Iran of tomorrow we will defend the abolition of the death penalty. This is our response to the ruthless killings and brutality with which the mullahs have ruled clutched on to their reign. Torture will be banned under any circumstances. There will be no room for cruel and degrading punishments under whatever pretext, including under the cloak of religion.

6. The Iranian Resistance is committed to the separation of church and state. In the Iran of tomorrow the principle of freedom of religion will be respected. The country's laws will not ban any religion. No religion will enjoy privilege over another and no citizen will be subjected to any personal or social privilege or privation in their individual or social rights because of their belief or non-belief in any religion.

7. We are committed to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. In the Iran of tomorrow, men and women will enjoy equal rights in all political, social and economic sectors. Women will have equal participation in the political leadership of the country.

8. In the Iran of tomorrow all forms of sexual exploitation of women will be prevented. Polygamy will be banned. Physical, sexual and psychological violence against women will be considered a crime.

9. In the Iran of tomorrow oppression, discrimination and lawlessness concerning children and child labor will be banned.

10. The judiciary of the future Iran will be founded upon a uniform system of justice. It will be a two-tiered system based on the presumption of innocence, the right to defense, the right to seek justice, the right to be tried in open courts with the presence of the jury. In this system, their will be no discrimination on issuing judgment. The complete independence of the judges and the Bar Association will be guaranteed.

11. In the Iran of tomorrow the free market will be respected. Economic opportunity will be provided to the people equitably and all restrictions on self employment will be lifted.

12. We are determined to ensure that in the Iran of tomorrow every member of society will enjoy access to social services, including education, hygiene and athletic opportunities. Universities will be governed by independent councils elected by the faculty and students.

13. In the Iran of tomorrow the just right to autonomy of the people of Kurdistan will be recognized. We seek the eradication of dual discrimination against all ethnic minorities in Iran in the framework of the country's indivisible territorial integrity.

14. In the Iran of tomorrow, interference in the internal affairs of other countries will be

banned and others will be banned from interfering in our internal affairs. We demand peace, mutual respect in international relations, good neighborliness and the establishment of diplomatic relations with all countries of the world. The Iran of tomorrow will be a non-nuclear country and devoid of weapons of mass destruction.

Dear compatriots, honorable friends, What I enumerated was the synopsis of the Iranian Resistance's views and program for our nation once it is liberated from the oppression of the mullahs. To realize this program, free elections will be held for a national constituent assembly within six months of the toppling of the ruling religious dictatorship. At the end of the six-month period, the provisional government will step down and the people's elected constituent assembly will begin work to appoint the new government and draft the new constitution. Three years ago, when the French police launched an unprecedented raid against the office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, freedom was again at stake. From the onset, it was obvious that the raid was the outcome of a deal with the theocracy ruling Iran. In truth, the Resistance of a victimized nation was being suppressed. Fortunately, in the past three years, this Resistance's perseverance overcame the June 17 conspiracy. Two weeks ago, on the anniversary of the June 17, 2003 raid, the Paris Court of Appeals revoked the oppressive and unwarranted restrictions against members and officials of the resistance. This ruling clearly testifies to the innocence of this resistance and the hollow nature of the June 17 dossier and the accusations of cult and terrorism that go with it.

Dear Friends, Today, there is only one way to thwart this threat. The West must reverse course and respect the will of the Iranian people to establish democracy. Any step in other directions, any delay in this respect will benefit the regime. The Resistance is the solution not only for establishing democracy in Iran but also for peace and security in the entire world. The solution to the nuclear crisis and to thwart the danger of a war is democratic change in Iran. Indeed, by relying on its beloved nation, this Resistance holds the key to the Iranian equation. The mullahs are trying to give the impression that opposition to war means supporting their regime. Thus, any opposition to war is only justified when accompanied by opposition to religious fascism. Opposition to war is effective only when it is accompanied by supporting the Iranian people's Resistance for freedom. On behalf of the Iranian people's Resistance, I want to remind the Western countries to learn of the catastrophic experience of giving concessions to the religious One day, the late Dr. Mossadeq in his trip to the United States told President Harry Truman, I have not come to ask for anything. I have come to ask you to remain neutral in the dispute over oil. Today, we are not asking you for anything, neither money, nor weapons. But we demand that you remain neutral in the struggle the Iranian nation is waging to attain freedom and democracy. We are demanding that you remove the MEK from the terrorist list and recognize the right of the Iranian people to resist dictatorship. The declaration by 5.2 million Iraqis who demanded the eviction of the clerical regime from Iraq and the recognition of the status of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran is a brilliant achievement by this front. This declaration is a great victory and breakthrough which presents Iraq and the rest of the world with the correct path to democracy, security and independence of Iraq, by rejecting the Iranian regime's meddling which has targeted Iraq's survival and democracy. The fact that some 5.2 million Iraqis above the age of 18 declared that "the



terrorist allegation against the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran has no legitimacy or credibility and must not be taken as a criterion for dealing with the MEK," demonstrates first and foremost that the near unanimous majority of Iranians have rejected this label. Fortunately, Iraqis invited the United Nations, international organizations and the International Committee of Lawyers to study and examine the signed documents of their historic declaration. We urged those organizations and especially the United Nations Security Council to accept the invitation. For this reason, we have said time and again that we will accept free elections under the auspices of the United Nations and based on popular sovereignty and not the velayat-e faqih and will accept a referendum. At the same time, however, we said that a viper would never give birth to a dove. One should not expect anything other than killings and repression from the ruling theocracy. Twenty-seven years of crime and suppression are enough. It is now time for freedom and the people's sovereignty. Our salutes to Ashraf and its great commander Mojgan Parsai, and to MEK's Secretary General and her proud colleagues, my beloved brothers and sisters in Ashraf City, who in the past three years on stepped up their steadfastness as they confronted an assortment of difficulties, bombings, the denial of their water, electricity, medicine and supplies, the massacre of Iraqi workers of Ashraf City and intelligence, terrorist conspiracies and kidnappings. The Iranian people and Iran's brave women and men who are resolved in the struggle for freedom hold the key to our nation's freedom. It is the Iranian people and Resistance who endeavor for change, bring about change and build the future. It is the Iranian people and their Resistance who will overthrow the evil of fundamentalism. Iran will become the land of democracy and human rights. The Iranian nation will triumph and will be free.

May God bless you all.

#### THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2006

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the District of Columbia District Attorney Establishment Act of 2006, continuing a series of bills that I will introduce this session to ensure a continuation of the process of transition to full democracy and self-government for the residents of the District of Columbia. This bill is the ninth in our "Free and Equal DC" series of bills to eliminate anti-Home Rule legislation and to remedy obsolete or inappropriate congressional intervention into the local affairs of the District of Columbia or denials of federal benefits or recognition routinely granted to other jurisdictions.

This bill will establish an Office of District Attorney for the District of Columbia, to be headed by a District Attorney elected by DC residents. Accordingly, this bill would move the city a quantum leap toward full home rule for the District of Columbia and equality with other Americans. This bill effectuates a November 2002 referendum where DC voters overwhelmingly (82 percent) approved a locally elected D.A.

This important legislation is designed to put the District of Columbia on par with every other local jurisdiction in the country by allowing DC residents to elect an independent District Attorney to prosecute local criminal and civil matters now handled by the U.S. Attorney, a federal official. Instead the new District Attorney would become the city's chief legal officer. As presently constituted, the U.S. Attorney's office in the District is the largest in the country only because it serves mainly as the local city prosecutor. That office needs to be freed up to do security and other federal work particularly in the post 9-11 nation's capital.

There is no issue of greater importance to our citizens and no issue on which residents have less say here than the prosecution of local crimes. A U.S. Attorney has no business in the local criminal affairs of local jurisdictions. No other citizens in the United States are treated so unfairly on an issue of such major importance. This bill would simply make the D.A. accountable to the people who elect him or her as elsewhere in the country.

In addition to issues of democracy and self government, such as congressional voting rights and legislative and budget autonomy that District residents are entitled to as American citizens, residents are determined to achieve each and every other element of home rule. Amending the Home Rule Act with a local D.A. provision would be an important development toward our goal of achieving true self-government. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

#### TRIBUTE TO GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER RELATIVE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the two and a half million grandparents acting as primary caregivers to their grandchildren. In fact, across the country there are more than 6 million children living with a grandparent, or others living in relative-headed households. I commend those who courageously step forward on a daily basis to care for these children, keeping them out of foster care while providing safe, stable homes.

Subsidized guardianship programs allow children to leave foster care for the permanent care of nurturing relatives. Through subsidized guardianship we are able to place a child with a grandparent or other relative who becomes the legal guardian, while at the same time, providing the guardian the financial resources to provide for the child's basic needs.

In its report, "Fostering the Future," the national, nonpartisan Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care recommended that Federal guardianship assistance be provided "to all children who leave foster care to live with a permanent legal guardian." That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 3380, the Guardianship Assistance Promotion and Kinship Support Act, which would allow the use of Federal funding to support subsidized guardianship programs.

In my own State of Connecticut, 6 percent of the children live with non-parent relatives.

Although, grandparents and other relative caregivers often represent the best opportunity for providing a loving and stable childhood for the children in their care, their hard work and dedication too often go unnoticed.

Today I offer my deepest appreciation for the dedicated service of these caregivers to our country and our Nation's most valuable asset, our children. And I commend Generations United for all their outstanding work in helping improve the lives of and create opportunity for our children.

#### RECOGNIZING MR. GARY WILLIAMS, THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND'S MOST WINNINGEST COACH

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it isn't often a gifted and talented athlete has an opportunity to exercise his skills as a coach. It is even less common for that athlete to coach at his alma mater. It is rarer still for that athlete to be recognized as one of the best coaches on the collegiate level. For this reason, it gives me great pleasure to rise before you today to celebrate the career of a good friend, a strong athlete, and an exceptional basketball coach, Mr. Gary Williams of the University of Maryland's Terrapins.

I have had the privilege of knowing Gary for a number of years. We were undergraduates at the University of Maryland at the same time. While I devoted my time to the university's lacrosse team, Gary could be found tearing up the university's basketball court.

Throughout his career, I have watched Gary excel as a leader in collegiate athletics. The university's basketball team won only nine games the year before Gary took over as head coach. Under his leadership, they turned around their losing streak by winning 19 games in his first season. After his 17th season as the Terrapins's coach, Gary Williams surpassed legendary Charles "Lefty" Driesell as the University of Maryland's "winningest coach"—reaching 353 career victories.

Gary led his team from a troubled period to national distinction. Under his direction, the Terrapins have made it to the Sweet Sixteen seven times, had two consecutive Final Four appearances, and relished a national championship in 2002. His is a story of pure determination, impeccable drive, and unprecedented excellence.

The former point guard for the Terps received the highest honor as an alumnus by being inducted into the university's Alumni Hall of Fame. He was ranked ninth among active NCAA Division I coaches. He was named the Washingtonian Magazine's "Washingtonian of the Year" and he was inducted into the Greater Washington Sports Hall of Champions, as well as the Washington, DC Metropolitan Basketball Hall of Fame.

Gary Williams has cemented his legacy by not only devoting his time and energy to the Terrapins, but by giving back to the community at large. Throughout the year, Gary remains active in charity work, fundraising, and public speaking engagements. He is involved with Coaches vs. Cancer, the Cystic Fibrosis